

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2007

The Honorable Samuel Bodman  
Secretary, Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

We write today to express our concerns about the proposed schedule of the public comment meetings with respect to the recently issued draft National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors pursuant to Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The draft Mid-Atlantic corridors alone affect the homes of almost 50 million Americans and over 116,627 square miles. The Department of Energy's intent was to hold just three public meetings, now there are seven, but this is still unacceptable.

Federal action of this magnitude absolutely must allow adequate input by interested homeowners, community groups, utilities commissions and government officials at all levels. Holding just seven public meetings in the middle of the work week simply does not accommodate the rights of American citizens to have their voice heard by federal officials.

Our constituents will be directly affected by this federal decision. Yet some would be required to drive up to 6 hours to attend a hearing being held in the middle of the week with only two weeks notice.

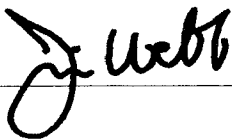

As the members of Congress representing the affected constituents, we feel the Department of Energy should hold a public meeting in every congressional district during evening hours when our constituents will be able to attend. Our constituents must have a full and adequate opportunity to be heard.


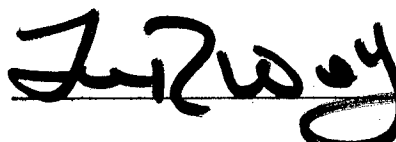
Due to the constricted time frame of the comment period, we urge you to extend the comment period for at least an additional 30 days to allow the department to conduct an adequate number of public meetings. Additionally, notice of these public meetings should be published in the newspaper of record in each affected county at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Thank you for taking steps to assure that the voices of our constituents will be heard.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

- SENATORS -

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